

Of Interest to Women.

WHEN HARPER FORMED A CLUB

BY HENRY ALDEN.

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It was Mrs. Anderson who first suggested the society and thereby she hoped to attain national fame. For in the first blush of enthusiasm she presented the idea to the Provisional Home Club in time to extend from New York to San Francisco—with the Carson club as the parent organization.

The P. H. C. was simple enough. It consisted of nearly all the marriageable girls in Carson, who, fired by the enthusiasm of Mrs. Anderson, pledged themselves not to marry until their future spouse had provided a home and a bank account, thus making ample provision for the inevitable rainy day.

The young men had no share in this enthusiastic admiration for Mrs. Anderson. Indeed, Frank Harper had had his first quarrel with Rose Wilder because he had happened to hint that Mrs. Anderson's enthusiasm might be somewhat less than she was not comfortably married.

"Jack Anderson has plenty of money," he growled, "but old man Anderson married when his sole capital was a railroad ticket West and he never saved up enough to bring his wife out to the new home until after the second summer."

"Do you dare to say that she is not sincere?" demanded Rose hotly. She was one of Mrs. Anderson's strongest supporters.

"She is sincere," admitted Harper, "but if Jack was as poor as his father and she loved him, I'll bet the P. H. C. would never have been formed." In the end, Harper went home with a heavy heart, carrying the little ring that had been the pledge of their love. Rose had declared that he must pay off the mortgage upon his farm before they were married and have at least \$5000 in the bank.

It took Harper exactly a week to pull himself together. Then he inaugurated a series of methods. The ladies of the Methodist church were to have a fair for the purpose of lifting the mortgage from the church property. Some time before Mrs. Anderson had declared that the church should stand free of debt within a year, and it was believed that this fair would provide the last \$500.

The day before the fair opened the young men of Carson came out with small badges, bearing the letters G. S. C., but the mystic import of these characters could not be learned. The only daughters who were standing behind the stalls. Then there seemed to come a lull. It was Mrs. Anderson who made the discovery that there was not an unmarried man in the room. Every young girl in Carson was present, either as a saleswoman or visitor, but there was not a bachelor in sight. The married men turned to manfully, and bought what they could afford, but by half past nine most of the crowd had



"Don't you want to buy this, Frank?"

It was your idea that the young women of Carson should pledge each other not to marry until the prospective husband had a home and \$5000 in the bank. While it is not probable that under such conditions many of us can afford to marry before we are fifty, we recognize the brilliancy of your idea, which you, yourself have declared is destined to reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We feel that the eyes of the country will shortly be turned toward Carson, and we have organized, supplementary to your society, the Get Something Club. Our members are pledged to attend no entertainment, to spend no money foolishly until we have each saved up by this means the \$5000 and the home demanded by your disciples."

"But," interrupted Mrs. Anderson half-teasingly, "I want you to come over to the fair and help make it a success."

"Madam," declared the president impressively, "we have thirty-seven names on our roll. Each might have spent from five to ten dollars, so we shall hold meetings of the club every evening during the fair to keep out of temptation. That means at least \$155 saved toward the \$155,000 we shall have to accumulate to follow out your admirable ideas. We feel that this duty—"

Unable to restrain himself longer, Jack Anderson interrupted the speech with a shout of laughter, in which even his wife had to join. She turned to Harper.

"See here, Frank Harper," she said, energetically, "you disband this club, come over and make the fair a success and I'll disband the Provisional Home club tomorrow."

She was true to her word, but more than one pledge was broken that very night. Even Rose Wilder, who was presiding at the household table, held out an attractive spread, saying, "Don't you want to buy this, Frank?"

"What's the use?" he protested. "I have no wife to give it to."

Rose blushed very prettily. "You might have the wife—if you bought the quilt. I take back all I said, and I'll take back the ring, if you will let me."

That night on the way home, Mrs. Anderson was struck by an idea.

"Get Something" was a funny name for the title of that club.

"I think," said Anderson, "that the 'something' they were to get was to get square."

Ring up 1053-7 for all kinds of repairs or alterations on your buildings. Screens and job work a specialty. Estimates cheerfully given. H. P. Williams, 160 East Second South.

gone home and the receipts counted up \$17.50.

The next morning various young gentlemen solemnly expressed regret that they had been unable to attend and promised to get around that evening if they could. Evidently they found it difficult, for the second night of the fair was even duller than the first.

Many of the married men had stayed home, and in desperation Mrs. Anderson commanded her husband to see if he could not find some of the young men, and induce them to come over. It was not long before Anderson was back, his face wreathed in smiles.

"Most of the boys are in the vacant store next to the postoffice," he reported. "They are having a meeting of the G. S. C. club to discuss certain important matters."

"Did you tell them to come over?" she demanded.

"I did, but they declined the invitation."

"Well," said Mrs. Anderson, with a tightening of her lips that Anderson knew well, "I am going over there to tell the boys what I think of them for breaking up my fair."

"I think," said Anderson, with a gravity of tone, which his twinkling eyes belied, "that they would be very glad to see you. It is not in any sense a secret society."

Ten minutes later she was being welcomed by the G. S. C. with elaborate courtesy.

"It is with special pleasure," said Frank Harper, in his capacity as president, "that we welcome you to our meeting. We feel that it is to you we owe our very existence."

"To me?" said Mrs. Anderson helplessly. "I'm sure I never heard of the club until just the other day."

"None the less," continued Harper, while Jack Anderson tried to get as far behind his pretty wife as he could, that she might not see his tell-tale face.

"None the less, it is to you that the honor of forming the club really belongs."

"It was your idea that the young women of Carson should pledge each other not to marry until the prospective husband had a home and \$5000 in the bank. While it is not probable that under such conditions many of us can afford to marry before we are fifty, we recognize the brilliancy of your idea, which you, yourself have declared is destined to reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We feel that the eyes of the country will shortly be turned toward Carson, and we have organized, supplementary to your society, the Get Something Club. Our members are pledged to attend no entertainment, to spend no money foolishly until we have each saved up by this means the \$5000 and the home demanded by your disciples."

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MRS. CHARLES H. DENISON.
The retiring president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, who will preside at the biennial convention to be called to order today at St. Louis.

IS POPULAR CANDIDATE.

TODAY the great biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs will be called to order by the president, Mrs. Charles H. Denison of New York. While many topics of importance are to be presented and discussed at the various meetings, the greatest interest will naturally center in the session at which the officers will be elected. The West is especially interested in the choice of officers this year, as upon one of its women the highest office in the gift of the Federation is likely to fall—that of president. Mrs. Sarah Platt-Decker of Denver is by all odds the most popular candidate named for the position and her selection is almost a foregone conclusion. The following article from the Denver Times, written by Mrs. Mila Tupper Maynard, will be of double interest to readers of The Tribune, for Mrs. Maynard formerly lived here and was one of the valued members of the Woman's club:

"The National Federation of Women's Clubs will meet in St. Louis next week and a large number of women from Colorado will attend as delegates, officers and interested lay members, while in the State at large thousands will watch the proceedings with personal enthusiastic interest."

"A gathering representing the intelligence of a great nation is significant and important at any time, but this year Colorado is especially interested, since the leading candidate, if not the only candidate, for the presidency is from the Centennial State. Mrs. Sarah Platt-Decker has at last consented to allow her friends to vote for her as head of the federated clubs. This is the mere nominal phrase that is usually, but an understatement of an unquestioned fact."

"Since the year the biennial met in Denver, 1898, there has been at each session a determined effort on the part of women from all over the Nation to persuade Mrs. Decker to accept this office. Not by the Colorado women, for they knew Mrs. Decker's wishes and her reasons for declining and respected both. The effort has been widespread and from all parts of the country."

"This was especially marked at the Kensington in Unity hall, 140 Second East street, on Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. All others interested are cordially invited to attend. Mrs. Decker will give an account of personal experience in work among the poor of London, England. The annual meeting will be held at 2:30."

E. W. Clarke, formerly of this city, but now of Seattle, is spending a few days here on his way to the coast."

The name of Mrs. George H. Noyes, a well-known clubwoman of Milwaukee, is the latest to be mentioned in connection with the office of president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs."

Members of the student body of the University of Utah will give an excursion to Salt Lake next Saturday evening in honor of the visitors from various parts of the State who come to attend the State track meet."

Mrs. H. E. Melton of this city is visiting her sister in Helena."

Harry Fulton returned yesterday from Baltimore, where he has been attending a medical school during the past year."

Friends of Gordon Hutchins will be glad to learn that he is on the road to recovery after an operation for appendicitis at St. Mark's hospital."

Mrs. Henry A. Lucas has returned from a month's stay in Montana, accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Ellen Hubbard of Plains, Mont."

Dal Twitchele, formerly of this city, but now of Seattle, is visiting friends here for a short time."

Mrs. Mamie Napper entertains at an informal luncheon today at her home."

Mrs. Agatha Berkhof will go to Logan on June 1, where she has been invited to sing at the commencement exercises of the Agricultural college."

Hoyt Sherman leaves next week for a visit to the far East. On his return he will be accompanied by Roger Sherman, who has just graduated at Andover and will shortly take his examinations for entrance to Yale."

Mrs. Gertrude Mayer entertains this afternoon in honor of her guests, Miss Adams and Miss Davis."

Mrs. Zink and Mrs. Melton will entertain the ladies of the Unity circle at a

Denver convention. Then every delegation entering the city expressed an earnest desire to have the Colorado woman head the list of officers. New York was especially enthusiastic in her support, and they all yielded only after an unqualified refusal.

Much the same pressure was brought to bear in Milwaukee in 1900, and with even greater persistence in Los Angeles in 1902.

"Such a phenomenon was a marvel. Women as well as men have not ordinarily been averse to accepting honors when thrust upon them, but Mrs. Decker offered Mrs. Decker was perhaps the greatest within the gift of American women."

The reason lay in no reluctance to serve the clubs of the country. Mrs. Decker for more than a decade has been an active worker for and in local clubs and the general movement. The motives that controlled her were typical of the woman and reveal the qualities that have given her her popularity and strength as a leader."

"Prior to the State Federation last fall members of previous delegations begged Mrs. Decker to announce her candidacy. They knew that only by so pledging her could they hope to avoid complications such as had arisen before. An early announcement was also due in justice to other possible candidates."

"Mrs. Decker at last consented and Colorado club women are rejoicing, while from all over the country come the most jubilant responses to the long-delayed concession. Mrs. Denison, the retiring president, is enthusiastically announcing Mrs. Decker as her successor, and there promises to be no opposition other than nominal, if there be even a nominal opponent."

"This is gratifying to Colorado people, for in this case there is a prophet without honor in her own country."

Few women in the State are regarded with such universal esteem, while no one has a greater, if as great, influence in any direction in which she wishes to accomplish results."

As a member of the State Board of Charities and Correction, Mrs. Decker has given the State untiring and invaluable service for many years. She was the first president and chief organizer of the Denver Woman's club, one of the great organizations of the country and a beneficent factor in the progressive life of the city at many points. Her personality and influence have always

been chief factors in giving the club the excellent spirit and freedom from exclusive narrowness which has always characterized this great body of Denver women."

"As president of the General Federation her influence would always be in the direction of the broad, progressive and practical. She favors every policy which will extend the stimulus of the organization to small clubs, small towns and people who need it everywhere. Lines of work directly helpful to the many needs of the world would receive her ardent support. The efforts of the clubs heretofore to investigate and help the condition of women and children have always received her hearty support."

"Her influence would be especially great as an atmosphere making for large-minded, genial good fellowship. She is incapable of smallness in any direction, and the wholesome, cheery social atmosphere which such a nature carries with it is really a greater contribution to the well-being of the clubs than would be any amount of learned theories."

"An Eastern writer, commenting upon the Los Angeles convention, said: 'There are moments which are remembered when years are forgotten. Such a moment was the one when Mrs. Sarah Platt-Decker of Colorado was nominated from the floor of the convention by Ohio. Mrs. Decker was seated above in the gallery with her Colorado delegation. She at once arose and refused her name as a candidate. Notwithstanding this, her name was written on the blackboard, and the election was about to proceed by order of the ruling of the chair, when Mrs. Decker appeared in the body of the house and called a point of order. That was the great moment—a moment which proved Mrs. Sarah Platt-Decker a woman worthy of every high honor which woman can give to woman.'

"I wonder how many men—and if many women—would have risen to such heights under such flattering temptation."

"Mrs. Decker enjoys in a marked degree the loyalty and esteem of the women of America, especially those of her comrades who have 'thought and fought and toiled' with her, and who have welcomed alike the disappointments and triumphs that are always the portion of those whose work is for all mankind. She is a leader in her own State, but her fame has long since passed the borders of the Silver State, and so popular is she among her countrywomen that friends persisted in using her name for president of the fed-

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eration against her express declaration that she would not be a candidate, and, indeed, it was only after Mrs. Decker had displayed considerable feeling that her admirers ceased their efforts to make her "the first lady" of the federation."

"A prominent club woman, after reporting the exciting incidents in Los Angeles when Mrs. Decker fought so valiantly to keep her friends from voting for her, and referring to the impromptu speech then made by her as one of which 'any American citizen, no matter how high his position or great his eloquence, could well be proud, added:

"'Froud indeed is the National Federation of the able and gifted president, and proud indeed are its members of their brave and generous co-worker, who has never, in the three times she has refused office, allowed solicitation to swerve her from the course she thought right. She will be known by her associates as 'The Great Commander' until she thinks it wise and well to accept office. Then the best they have will be the gift of the club women of America to the great woman of Colorado.'

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Preacher Incurs Ill Will of Children

Baptist Minister Who Protests Against Teaching Children That There Is a Santa Claus.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 16.—At today's session of the Southern Baptist convention, Dr. De Ford of St. Louis entered a vigorous protest against teaching children that there is such an entity as Santa Claus. He said it was a myth and an abomination that should be relegated to the rear. Dr. De Ford said to the children this deception was exceedingly hurtful, in that it would encourage and train children to be deceitful.

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